

Message

From: Madison, Jane [JMadison@mt.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2023 3:14:49 PM
To: Becker, KC [Becker.KC@epa.gov]
CC: Laidlaw, Tina (she/her/hers) [Laidlaw.Tina@epa.gov]; Kron, Darrin [dkron@mt.gov]; andrew.ulven@mt.gov; james.fehr [james.fehr@mt.gov]
Subject: Addendum to Montana 2020 Water Quality Integrated Report
Attachments: 2020_Addendum_SubmittalLetter.pdf

Dear Ms. Becker:

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is pleased to inform you that we have submitted an addendum to our 2020 Water Quality Integrated Report (Integrated Report) to EPA's ATTAINS system per the state's water quality reporting requirements under the federal Clean Water Act §303(d) and 305(b). The addendum, as well as all Montana 2020 Integrated Water Quality Report (2020 IR) documents, were submitted in the 2021 cycle in ATTAINS. This addendum presents the results of the 2020 assessment of the Gallatin River, Yellowstone National Park Boundary to Spanish Creek (MT41H001_021). Also included is an update with added content to **Section 6** of the 2020 IR and any appendices that were updated to include the Gallatin River. **Section 6** was the only section in the 2020IR affected by adding the Gallatin River to the impaired waters list. Assessment of sufficient credible data indicates the Gallatin River, from the Yellowstone National Park Boundary to Spanish Creek (MT41H001_021), is impaired by excess algal growth due to exceeding the prohibition in ARM 17.30.637(1)(e). Based upon the proposed impairment listing, DEQ will, in consultation with the statewide TMDL advisory group, establish a priority ranking for appropriate total maximum daily load (TMDL) development pursuant to 75-5-702, MCA. The Addendum to the 2020 Integrated Report provides and updates Montana's 303(d) list as well as. EPA staff have access to the report documents and assessment data in the ATTAINS system in order to review the submission for approval.

DEQ accepted public comments on the Draft Water Quality Assessment for the Gallatin River, Yellowstone National Park Boundary to Spanish Creek, Montana. between June 20, 2022, and August 22, 2022. A public hearing was held on July 14, 2022. The department received over 2,373 comment letters and one phone call. Most of these comment letters support the proposed impairment designation while urging DEQ to declare nitrogen and phosphorus as the cause of increased algal blooms in the Gallatin River. No comments were received that were opposed to the impairment listing. Please see Addendum Appendix K for details.

If EPA approves the Addendum to the 2020 Water Quality Integrated Report, the final document and associated information will be available electronically at DEQ's Clean Water Act Information Center (CWAIC) website (www.cwaic.mt.gov). The CWAIC application provides access to the report document and appendices. A map of the 2020 Assessment and corresponding Detailed Waterbody and Impairment reports will be available at <https://clean-water-act-information-center-mtdeq.hub.arcgis.com/> upon approval. An option to download pertinent data is also available at the preceding website. Please direct questions regarding access or use of this site to Jane Madison at jmadison@mt.gov.

In addition, Montana DEQ is submitting an erratum to the 2020 IR, correcting the number of completed TMDLs. This change was made to the Montana 2020 Water Quality Integrated Report document submitted with the ATTAINS 2021 cycle submittal.

During your review, if you have questions or require additional information, please contact Water Quality Planning Bureau staff Darrin Kron, Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Section Supervisor, dkron@mt.gov, or Andy Ulven, Bureau Chief, andrew.ulven@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Krywaruchka
Water Quality Division Administrator

Jane Madison | Database Analyst
Water Quality Protection Bureau
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How did we do? >>